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President Orders Lie Detector Tests

Washington—All government agency policies must permit lie detector tests for employees with access to secrecy classified information under a new directive from President Reagan.

The directive is based on recommendations of a multiagency study group headed by the Justice Dept.

The directive also requires adoption by all government agencies of policies controlling contacts between journalists and personnel with access to classified information. Additionally, more employees will be required to sign nondisclosure agreements concerning classified information.

The directive makes no change in the current practice of aiming investigations at employees who disclose classified information, rather than at journalists who print it.

Justice Dept. officials said the result of those investigations will be administrative action, such as demotion or dismissal, rather than criminal prosecution. They said that while disclosure poten-

tially violates a number of criminal statutes, there has never been a successful prosecution.

The new directive also clarifies the ability of the FBI to investigate disclosure of classified information, even though only administrative action will result from a successful investigation.

The use of lie detectors will be left to the discretion of the agency head. The Justice Dept. officials noted the lie detector already is used on a regular basis. The purpose of mentioning the tests in the directive is to provide more consistency in government-wide policy on their use, they said.

Employees who knowingly disclose classified information or who refuse cooperation with investigations will be subject to mandatory administrative actions, such as denial of all future access to classified information.

The Justice Dept. officials said they did not expect the directive to eliminate all disclosures of classified information.